



***Thursday, Sept. 7, 2017
News Release #225-17***

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

St. Lucie County Hurricane Irma Update Thursday, Sept. 7

ST. LUCIE COUNTY – St. Lucie County's Emergency Management Division continues to monitor the track of Hurricane Irma - a severe storm that is expected to impact the Treasure Coast starting in the evening on Saturday, Sept. 9. Residents are strongly urged to continue to finalize their plans.

Evacuations

Mandatory evacuations will be issued for residents on North & South Hutchinson Island, in low-laying areas and those living in manufactured homes, starting Friday at 3 p.m. Once residents leave those areas, they will not be allowed re-entry until the storm passes and public safety officials have cleared the roads. For a map of shelters and evacuation routes visit:

www.stlucieco.gov/hurricane.

Shelters

St. Lucie County will open the special needs shelter on Friday, Sept. 8 at 9 a.m., which is located at the Havert L. Fenn Center, 2000 Virginia Ave., Fort Pierce. Residents planning to use the special needs shelter must pre-register at www.stlucieco.gov/eoc.

The schedule for openings has been revised: Four general population shelters will open Friday, Sept. 8 at 3 p.m. including:

- Westwood High School, 1801 Angle Road, Fort Pierce, which will also serve as a pet-friendly shelter. Residents need to bring crates for their pets, as well as food, water and litter. All pets must have up-to-date vaccinations. Pets, along with their owners, will be taken on a first-come, first-serve basis.

- Treasure Coast High School, 1000 SW Darwin Blvd. Port St. Lucie.
- Westgate K-8 School, 1050 NE Cashmere Blvd., Port St. Lucie.
- Fort Pierce Central High School, 4101 South 25th Street, Fort Pierce.

The rest of the general population shelters will open on Saturday, Sept. 9 at 9 a.m.:

- Chester A Moore Elementary, 827 N 29th Street, Fort Pierce
- Floresta Elementary, 1501 SE Floresta Drive, Port St Lucie
- Lakewood Park Elementary, 7800 Indrio Road, Fort Pierce.
- Morningside Elementary, 2300 SE Gowin Dr, Port St Lucie.
- Oak Hammock Elementary, 1251 SW California Blvd, Port St Lucie.
- Parkway Elementary School, 7000 NW Selvitz Rd, Port St Lucie.
- Samuel S. Gaines Academy, 2250 S Jenkins Rd, Fort Pierce.

Residents are reminded that shelters are places of last resort. Those planning to stay at a shelter should bring food, water, blankets, pillows and medications.

Transit

The Treasure Coast Connector fixed route service will run a regular service on Thursday, Sept. 7 and Friday, Sept. 8 – unless winds require that the vehicles to be taken off the road. At this time, service is not expected to be available Saturday, Sept. 9. With regard to demand/response, regular service has been canceled for Friday and trips for dialysis will only be provided on those days and will be available for special needs transport as directed.

Garbage

Garbage collection will continue through Friday, Sept. 8, but residents and businesses are asked to no longer put out yard debris and tree limbs to prevent these materials from becoming projectiles and blocking drains.

Government Closures

St. Lucie County government offices and facilities, include the Clerk of Courts, Tax Collector, Property Appraiser, Sheriff's Office and Supervisor of Elections, will be closed on Friday, Sept. 8. This closure includes the skate park, Lawnwood Stadium, St. Lucie County libraries, preserves and attractions such as the Regional History Center, St. Lucie County Aquarium and the Oxbow Eco-Center. St. Lucie County Public Schools, as well as John Carroll

High School and St. Anastasia Catholic School, will be closed Friday, Sept. 8. Indian River State College will be closed Thursday, Sept. 7 to Sunday, Sept. 10. IRSC will remain open through the evening of Wednesday, Sept. 6. The 19th Judicial Court and the St. Lucie County Clerk of the Court will be closed Monday, Sept. 11. The Board of County Commissioners informal meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 12 and joint meeting with Indian River and Martin Counties will most likely be rescheduled.

Updates

St. Lucie County will go to a Level 1 (full) activation on Friday, Sept. 8 at 8 a.m. until the storm passes. Once the EOC is fully activated, updates will be provided on WQCS 88.9 FM and on the county's Facebook pages at 8 a.m., noon and 5 p.m. St. Lucie County's Information Hotline, 772-460-HELP (4357), will be open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Friday, Sept. 8.

St. Lucie County Commissioners approved a local State of Emergency Declaration Tuesday evening; while Florida Gov. Scott issued a statewide declaration on Monday.

For more information about the St. Lucie County's preparations and precautionary measures visit: www.stlucieco.gov/hurricane or on social media @StLucieGov.

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